Workshop on the role of whole sale markets for urban food distribution system in Asia

1726. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether a four day workshop on the role of wholesale markets for urban food distribution system in Asia, was held near Delhi at Surajkund on 4th November, 1996;

(b) if so, the main observations and suggestions made thereat especially with regard to dominant role being assumed by MNCs in the area of food production and processing industry; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFARIS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The workshop made certain general recommendations. There were, however, no observations and suggestions on the role of MNCs in the area of food production and processing industry.

Measures for the safety of coal mines

1727. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in the Indian Express dated 9th November, 1996 under the caption Jharia's 1.5 lakh sitting on a powder-keg; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be adopted to ensure safety of the coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) some of the steps being taken to ensure safety in coal mines are as under:—

1. The internal safety organisation has been strengthened by providing additional power for enforcement of safety practices;
2. System of periodic safety audit has been introduced;
3. close monitoring of safety status of highly gassy mines and fiery mines is being done;
4. Timber suppect is being phased out with steel support;
5. Tele-communication from underground mines to the surface is being introduced in a phased manner;
6. A large number of high head high capacity pumps have been produced for emergency de-watering;
7. automatic Mathane and fire alarms have been provided in degree III gassy mines fiery mines;
8. Orders have been placed for highly capital intensive safety equipment like large diameter rescue drill and operation and maintenance personnel have been selected;
9. Additional rescue have been planned so that rescue teams are able to reach any mine within 30 minutes of receiving any information of emergency.

Production of different grades of coal

1728. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of different grades of coal both from underground mines and open cast mines in the country;